(Mr. Khouini, Tunisia)

Tunisia, which has always supported the struggle of the people of South Africa for a democratic society where equal rights and opportunities would be guaranteed for all races and all social categories, once again calls upon the Pretoria regime from this rostrum to renounce once and for all its apartheid policy in all its inhuman forms and practices.

(Mr. Khouini, Tunisia)

Tunisia also calls upon the international community to continue to exert economic and political pressure on the minority regime in South Africa, as there is no place today in the emerging world order for a political system that marginalizes the majority of the populace and thwarts its aspirations after emancipation, freedom and justice.

The General Assembly is also called upon to adopt all measures necessary to prompt the Pretoria regime to implement all United Nations resolutions relating to the struggle against apartheid and to continue to monitor closely events in South Africa as any relapse that may hinder the restoration of the rights of the black majority and prevents that majority from participating in the building of an egalitarian society would have a negative impact on peace and security in that region. Southern Africa has witnessed atrocities that are no longer acceptable in today's world, which is moving towards the establishment of democratic societies based on justice and equality.

The African continent aspires today to effective participation in the creation of the new world order for which we all hope and which, thanks to recent developments in international relations, has become a common goal for which we are working with all other international parties. In order for the African continent's march towards progress to be consolidated, we must work tirelessly in cooperation with all the international parties here represented to eliminate the causes of tension that continue to obstruct that march.

The many crises of our continent have gradually moved towards peaceful solutions with the exception of the situation in South Africa, because of the policy of apartheid and its repercussions not only on the domestic situation but also on the front-line States and the regional and international situations. Thus, if it wishes to devote its efforts to joining the peaceful

(Mr. Khouini, Tunisia)

international system which now prevails, Pretoria will have to comply with the resolutions of the international community and human norms and begin immediately to work towards laying the democratic foundations upon which the political, economic and social life of South Africa may be built. The regime should also desist from acting on the basis of the logic of force, because current international relations have shown that it is necessary to renounce such methods, which do not serve international peace and security.

Mr. MOORE (United States of America): This year's debate on South Africa comes at a time when there is more reason than ever before for hope that a system of non-racial, multiparty democracy will soon be in place. Last weekend's preparatory conference was the last step in the pre-negotiations phase. The convening of this month's Convention for a Democratic South Africa will mark the beginning of full-scale constitutional talks. Credit for these positive developments lies primarily with the parties in South Africa that have shown a tremendously impressive ability to put the past behind them in order to work for non-racial democracy in South Africa.

The role of the international community has also been important. The cooperative spirit demonstrated in the consultations on this year's General Assembly draft resolutions on South Africa - particularly the omnibus draft resolution on international efforts towards the establishment of a non-racial democratic South Africa - illustrates an increasingly constructive international climate which will continue to press the process of change under way in South Africa. I should like to call particular attention to the key role Ambassador Ibrahim Gambari, Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid, has played in these efforts. With his good-humoured, no-nonsense approach, he has been instrumental in encouraging all of us in a constructive and unified approach to this issue.

(Mr. Moore, United States)

Since last year's debate, the process of change in South Africa has accelerated, reaffirming my Government's belief that it is irreversible. The release of political prisoners, the repeal of pillars of apartheid, including the Group Areas Act and the Population Registration Act, and the beginning of the return of exiles are all momentous developments.

The increasing convergence within South Africa regarding constitutional principles is a further reason for confidence. All of the parties to negotiations have agreed on certain fundamental elements of a new constitution, including an entrenched bill of rights and a bicameral legislature elected by proportional representation. All parties have accepted the concept, which was projected in the 1989 United Nations Declaration on Apartheid, that

> "all men and women have the right and duty to participate in their own government, as equal members of society, and that no individual or group of individuals has any right to govern others without their democratic consent". (resolution S/S-16/1, eighth preambular paragraph)

The value of the role of international organizations in South Africa has been demonstrated during the past year. I would particularly note the assistance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the return of exiles. The United States has strongly supported such a role for UNHCR, and we are pleased to see that the repatriation process is now on track.

Of course, not all developments in South Africa over the past year have been positive. Violence continues to take a tragic human toll, though the signing of the National Peace Accord lends hope that the cycle of violence may be brought to an end.

(Mr. Moore, United States)

In addition, there are huge challenges ahead to redress the socio-economic legacy of apartheid, particularly in housing, education and health. We continue to urge the South African Government, in coordination with other parties and the business community, to take further action in these areas. In the long term, an economic policy which inspires confidence among international investors will create the growth necessary for the broad economic uplifting of the victims of apartheid.

When the United Nations Declaration on Apartheid was adopted in 1989, it would have seemed wildly optimistic to predict that within only two years full-scale negotiations would be imminent, the pillars of apartheid would be repealed, and Nelson Mandela would be present to address the United Nations General Assembly this morning and say that "we can see rising on the horizon" a South Africa of "emancipation, prosperity, happiness and peace" (A/46/PV.59, pp. 52-55). Now it seems likely that soon the majority of South Africans, so long deprived of a voice, will be represented by a government they have freely chosen. My Government joins the international community in joy at that prospect and in commitment to that goal.

The meeting rose at 6.40 p.m.